

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

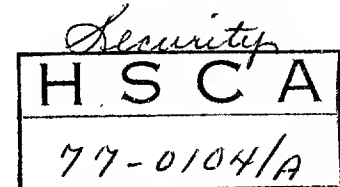
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

OLC RECORD COPY

OLC: 77-5725/a

26 JAN 1978

Office of Legislative Counsel



Mr. G. Robert Blakey, Chief Counsel
and Director
Select Committee on Assassinations
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Blakey:

STAT This is in regard to your letter of 27 December 1977
to [redacted] regarding classification of
correspondence between the Committee and the Agency.

We appreciate your special handling arrangements to
assure maximum protection of sensitive Agency information.

As I discussed with you when we met on 6 January 1977,
I see no legal reason why the Committee cannot use Executive
Branch classification markings on Committee documents when
information is drawn from classified Agency documents.
Actually, this has been a long followed policy by standing
committees of both Houses of the Congress. Distinguishing
classified information in Committee records will facilitate
preparation of a final Committee report by clearly identifying
that information which must be reviewed by CIA for a judgment
on releasability.

You indicated agreement with this procedure and I hope
it is adopted.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

Assistant Legislative Counsel

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Select Committee on Assassinations

U.S. House of Representatives

3331 HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING, ANNEX 2

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

H S C A

77-104

December 27, 1977

OLG 57-5725

STAT

[REDACTED]
Central Intelligence Agency
Office of Legislative Counsel
Washington, D. C. 20505

STAT

Dear [REDACTED]

This letter is written in connection with our conversation on December 22, 1977, in reference to the classification of correspondence between the Committee and the Agency.

I have carefully reviewed my letter of December 15, 1977, which we discussed on Thursday, and have concluded that it would be inappropriate to designate the letter as "sensitive", or to mark it under Section 110 of the Committee's Security Procedure as material that contains or reveals restricted material.

I have also carefully reviewed my letter of December 20, 1977, making nine specific requests. It would be appreciated if you would, in my behalf, designate that letter "sensitive". Copies held here have been so designated. As you are aware, however, the Committee has no lawful authority to classify any document. Nevertheless, since item #5 in my letter of December 20, 1977, is derived from materials designated "Top Secret", but neither contains nor reveals the contents of said material, it may be appropriate for the Agency, but not the Committee, to so classify that item.

Similarly, I have carefully reviewed my letter of December 22, 1977, requesting access to eleven designated items and several other files and materials. The paragraph beginning "Finally" is derived from material designated "Top Secret", but neither contains nor reveals the contents of said material; it may, therefore, be appropriate for the Agency, but not the Committee, to so classify that item.

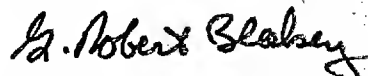
STAT

December 27, 1977

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In the future, letters to you will, where appropriate, contain a concluding paragraph indicating to you that particular requests are so derived from classified materials. I trust that this practice will aid in maintaining the integrity of materials the Agency has furnished the Committee.

Sincerely,



G. Robert Blakey
Chief Counsel and Director

GRB:dm